

House Resolution 1918

By: Representative Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Comprehensive Medical Education Study Committee; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, physicians play a critical role in ensuring that all Georgians receive quality  
4 health care; and

5 WHEREAS, the state's population is one of the fastest growing populations in the nation and  
6 has increased by almost 900,000 people since 2000; and

7 WHEREAS, these new citizens and all those who have called Georgia home for years will  
8 need access to physicians in future years; and

9 WHEREAS, the health care needs of the citizens will grow substantially in future years as  
10 the state's population ages; and

11 WHEREAS, the state's ratio of physicians to population ranks 37th in the nation as of 2004;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, this ranking raises concerns that the state lacks the physician work force that  
14 its citizens need; and

15 WHEREAS, the state has a well established and diverse medical education system; and

16 WHEREAS, this medical education system has grown only in recent years to account for  
17 Georgia's increased population; and

1 WHEREAS, the expansions of this medical education system have occurred to a greater  
2 extent in increases in medical schools and medical school enrollment than in residency  
3 programs; and

4 WHEREAS, the poor balance of these expansions and the unknown impact of ongoing  
5 expansions across the medical education system raises concerns that Georgia does not and  
6 will not possess the medical education system it needs to meet the demand for physicians in  
7 the state.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
9 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Comprehensive Medical Education Study  
10 Committee to be composed of four members of the House of Representatives to be appointed  
11 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and four members of the Senate to be  
12 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the President Pro Tempore shall  
14 designate a member of the Senate to serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The  
15 committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall study the current physician capacity  
17 in the state; assess the growth trends of this work force to determine if Georgia will have the  
18 number and types of physicians it will need in the future; review the current productive  
19 capacity of the medical education system, giving special consideration to the mix of primary  
20 care and physician specialists and the potential imbalance between medical schools and  
21 residency programs; and look at cost-effective solutions to addressing any observed shortfalls  
22 in the productive capacity of the state's medical education system. At the conclusion of its  
23 work, the committee shall produce a report on the capacity of the medical education system  
24 and needed changes to be made to this system to ensure it can produce sufficient numbers  
25 of physicians to meet Georgia's needs and shall outline strategies to build any needed  
26 enhancements to capacity.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall receive the  
28 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall  
29 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The  
30 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
31 appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. In the event the committee makes  
32 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if

- 1 any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall hold
- 2 no more than five meetings and shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.